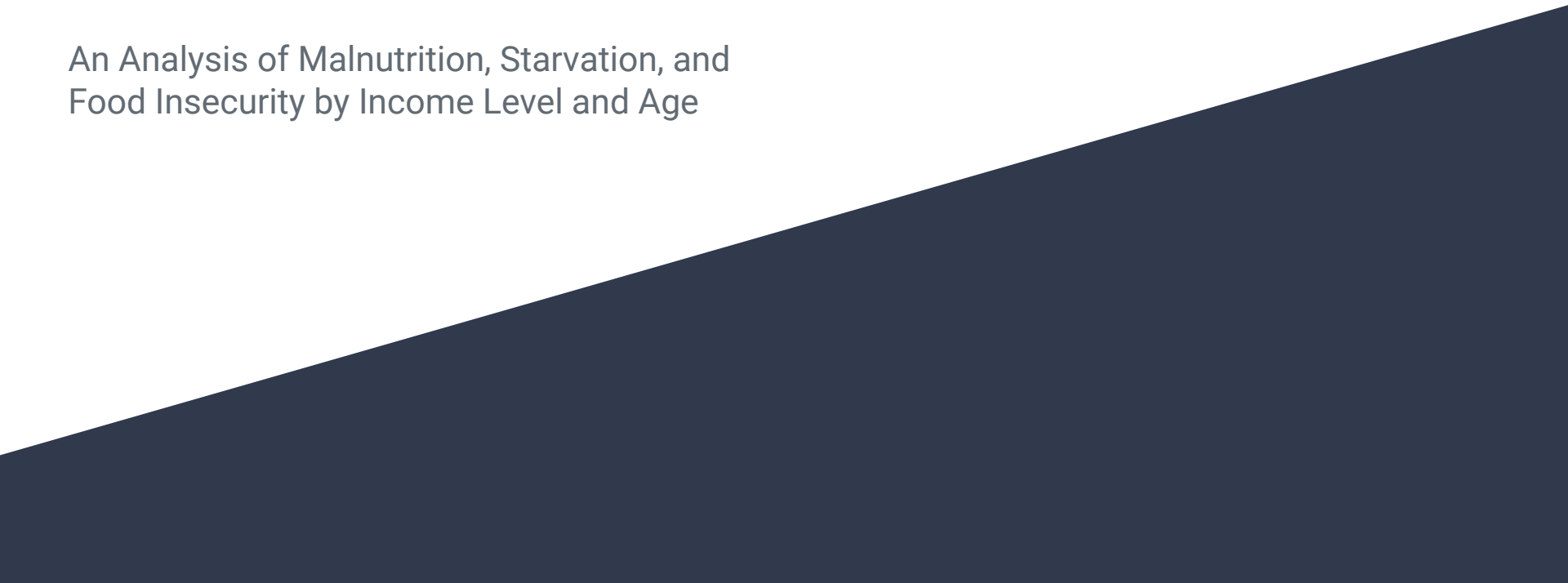


Addressing Food Insecurity in the United States

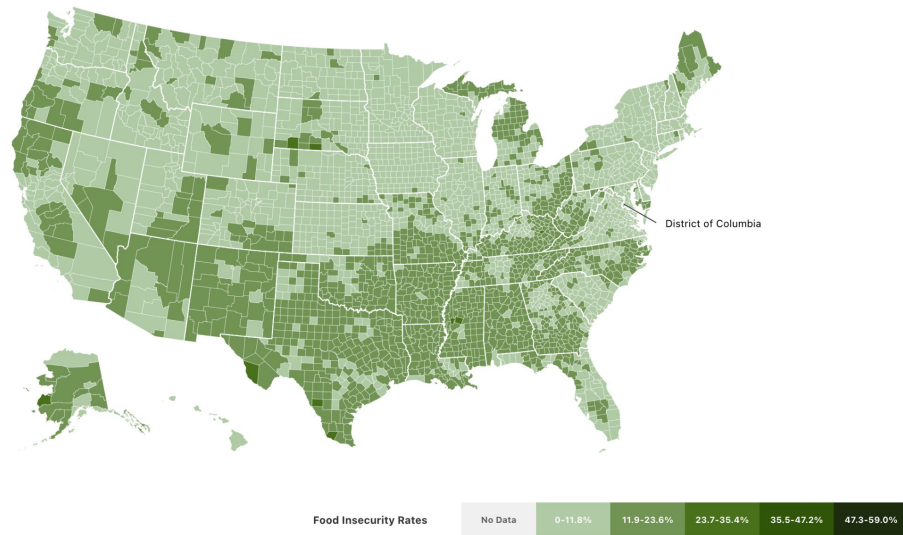
An Analysis of Malnutrition, Starvation, and
Food Insecurity by Income Level and Age

A dark blue, diagonal graphic element that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Introduction

- While malnutrition, starvation, and food insecurity is worse in other countries, it impacts the U.S. as well
- Today, we will leverage data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Feeding America to illustrate how these food-related struggles disproportionately impact low-income Americans
- We will also consider age-group trends to arrive at concrete steps that policymakers can take to address these issues

Overview of Food Insecurity in the U.S.

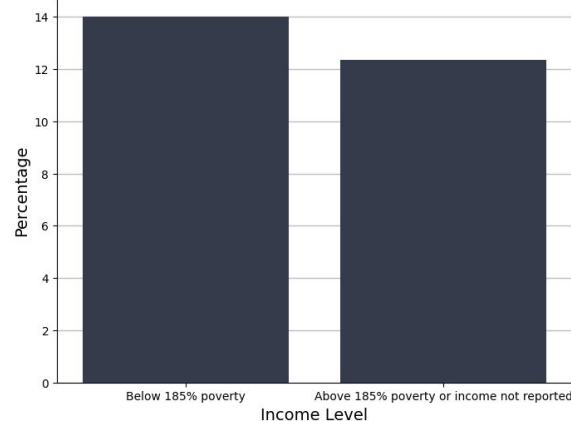


Food Insecurity 2021, Source: Feeding America (<https://map.feedingamerica.org>)

- Food security: “Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life” (USDA)
- As the map shows, food insecurity (just one food-related issue) is prevalent in the U.S.
- As we will show, however, not all Americans experience these issues the same way

Malnutrition by Income Level

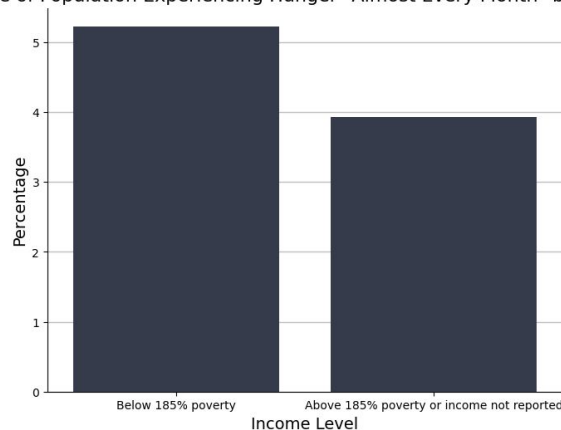
Percentage Often Struggling to Afford Balanced Meals by Income Level



- We begin with malnutrition, inferred by the answer to the question: “**(I/we) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.** Was that **OFTEN**, **SOMETIMES**, or **NEVER** true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?”
- We consider “**OFTEN**” suggestive of malnutrition, and compare the groups below and above 185% of the poverty guidelines
- **Those below 185% poverty suffer malnutrition at a higher rate**

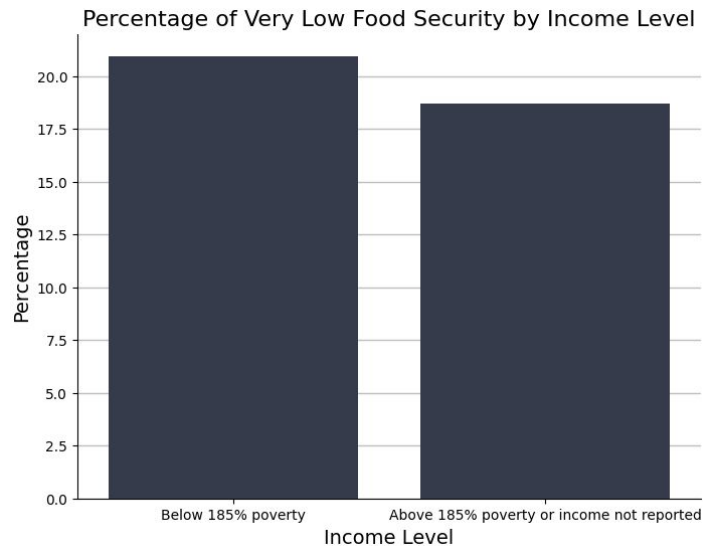
Starvation by Income Level

Percentage of Population Experiencing Hunger "Almost Every Month" by Income Level



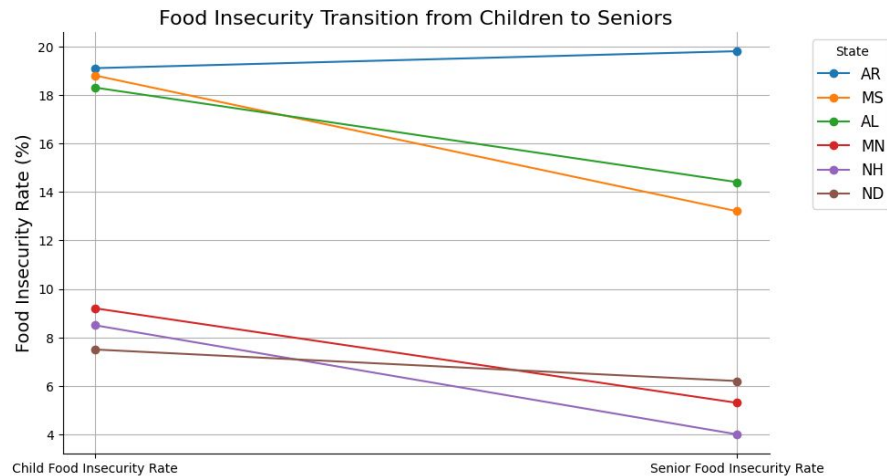
- We infer starvation by the answer to the question: **In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?** If so, did it happen almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?"
- We consider **"almost every month"** suggestive of starvation, and compare the groups below and above 185% of the poverty guidelines
- **Those below 185% poverty suffer starvation at a**

Food Insecurity by Income Level



- Food security status is calculated by the Census Bureau based on respondents' answers to previous questions
- And once again, **those below 185% poverty suffer from very low food insecurity at a higher rate**

Food Insecurity: Digging Deeper (1/2)

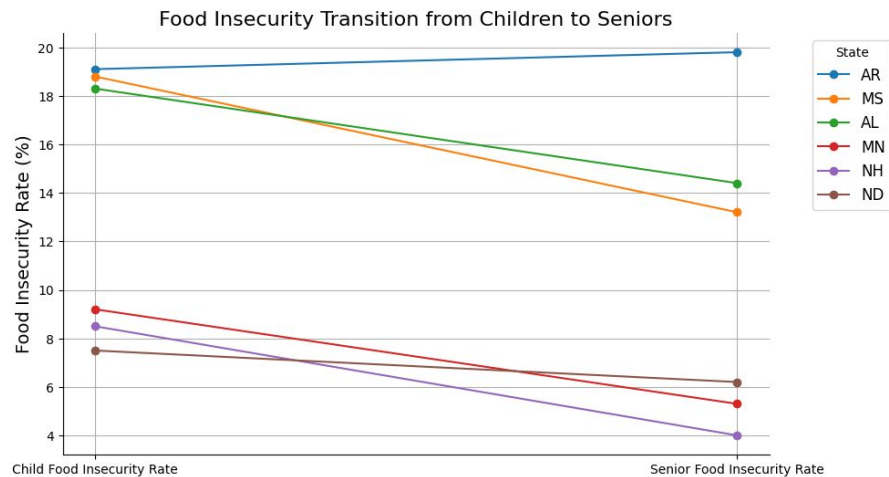


Note: States with the highest and lowest overall food insecurity rates were plotted.

Source: Map the Meal Gap 2019-2021, Feeding America

- We indirectly look at the longitudinal impact of food insecurity by comparing child food insecurity rates with senior food insecurity rates
- We look only at the states with the most extreme overall food insecurity rates (both high and low)

Food Insecurity: Digging Deeper (2/2)



Note: States with the highest and lowest overall food insecurity rates were plotted.

Source: Map the Meal Gap 2019-2021, Feeding America

- Overall rates tend to decrease, albeit very slightly
- More strikingly, **rates do not change much from child food insecurity to senior food insecurity!**
- This highlights the importance of tackling childhood food insecurity; failure to do so will hinder their ability to become self-sufficient as they become adults

Conclusion and Call to Action

- In this presentation we saw that people with lower income tend to suffer from malnutrition, starvation, and food insecurity at higher rates, and that low food insecurity in childhood likely carries into adulthood
- Therefore, it is critical that we **prioritize tackling these issues in low-income areas**, including by raising awareness and removing barriers to food assistance programs
- Similarly, it is critical that we have **new programs addressing childhood food insecurity**; this will not only help the children now, but likely help them become self-sufficient adult citizens in the future